

UNTO
HIS GRACE
HIS
MAJESTIES
HIGH
COMMISSIONER

And the Right Honourable the Estates of
Parliament,

The Humble Representation of the Ministers from
the Synods and Presbyteries of this Church, Met
at Edinburgh May 30 1695 years.

WE do with all thankfulness acknowledge that His Majesty, and the Honourable Estates of this present Parliament, have under God been the happy Instruments of reviving the Reformation, and restoring the Government of this Church. And do humbly and earnestly beg of His Grace the Lord Commissioner and the Honourable Estates of Parliament, the continuance of their Favour, in promoting and carrying on the Reformation begun, and Countenancing the Judicatories of this Church in the Exercise of Discipline and Government for that effect. And Wee humbly crave leave to lay before You, the following particulars.

1. That notwithstanding of many good and excellent Laws made against Prophaney of all sorts, yet all kind of Wickedness doth exceedingly abound, especially Cursing, and Swearing. Sabbath breaking, Drunkeness, Uncleanness &c. and in all appearance will more and more encrease, unless some method be fallen on for a vigorous Execution of these Laws.

2. That several of the Episcopal Clergy, who are yet in possession of their Charges and Benefices, do in several places meet together in their pretended Presbyteries and Synods, and Act as if they were Legal Judicatories.

3. That divers of the late Episcopal Clergy, and others whom they have associated unto them, have intruded themselves into Vacant Churches, posset themselves of Pulpits, Manses and Benefices, exercising all the parts of the Ministry as if they were the lawful Ministers of these Parishes, and that without any legal call, allowance or admission of any Church Judicatory or Application therunto for that effect.

4. That when the Committee of the late Assembly was in the North they met with several protestations at Aberdeen, and Inverness, from several of the Episcopall Ministers, not only in their own Name, but pretending to represent others of their perswasion, and this they did though neither Cited nor call'd which protestations were Declinatures of the Authority of the Auditatories of this Church, and tend to perpetuate Schisme therein, and are a manifest contempt of the Law.

5. That diverse of the late Episcopall Clergy after due tryal being found guilty of gross Scandals, immoralities, consumacies and supine negligence, and for those causes censured with deposition, do notwithstanding in high contempt of all order & Jurisdiction of the Church take out them to exercise all the parts of the Ministerial Function.

6. That several of the late Incumbents oured of their Charges for their disaffection to the Government, do creat disturbance against the same in several parts of the Kingdom by Irregular Preaching, baptising of Children begotten in Adultery and Fornication, without regard to the removing of the Scandal, and solemnizing of Marriage without proclamation of Banes, and without the knowledge and consent of Parents, yea sometimes within the forbidden Degrees and where former Marriages are not dissolved, and they do absolve Scandalous Persons unto whom they had never any Ministerial Relation.

7. It is Humbly Begg'd that vacant Stipends may be effectually applied for pious uses, and that these Vacancies that are on the north side of Tay may be applied for the defraying of their Charges who are from time to time sent to the North for supplying of the same, and that part of these vacant Stipends may be employed to bear the expense of calling Ministers from the South to the North to plant Vacancies there, and for Maintaining of Indigent Students of Theology recommended by the Presbyteries of the bounds.

All these above complained of being certain, and which we are sufficiently able to instruct if need be, are in themselves grievous and offensive to good Persons, & hardning to a wicked generation who love licentiousnes and a lawless liberty, Therefore it is humbly begg'd that his Grace his Majesties high Commissioner, and the Honourable Estates of Parliament may think of making Laws for remedying such of these evils as have not yet Laws against them, and revive such old acts as are made, and appoint the Execution of them that knowledg and piety may flourish, sin and vice may be curb'd and stopt, and flagrants and disorderly persons may be punished, truth and peace may continue, the Kingdom of Christ encrease, and the word of the Lord have free course and be glorified, which will alwayes be found to be the stability of the Thrones, and the true interest and security of the Nation.

